

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 2, after the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

Related Applications

This application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 national stage filing of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/13755, filed 28 October 2003, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-313242 filed on 28 October 2002, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-333742 filed 18 November 2002. The contents of the aforementioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

Page 1, after the **Related Applications** paragraph, insert the following title: “**Background of the Invention**”, before the title “**Technical Field**”.

Page 4, line 24 replace the title “~~Disclosure of Invention~~” with “**Summary of the Invention**”.

Page 31, beginning at line 12, ending at page 32, line 3, please replace two paragraphs with the following two paragraphs:

As shown in FIG. 18, on the surface 192b of the second metal plate 192, the inlet buffer 232222 and the outlet buffer 224 are formed, and the grooves 228b, 230b, 236b, 238b as part of the straight flow grooves 228, 230, 236, 238 are formed. Line seals 40g, 40h are formed on the surfaces 190a, 192a, and unillustrated line seals are provided between the surfaces 190b, 192b.

In the fourth embodiment, the number of grooves in the oxygen-containing gas flow field

194 and the number of grooves in the fuel gas flow field 206 change from six to three, and three to six. Therefore, the inlet buffer ~~208~~196 and the outlet buffer ~~210~~198 for the oxygen-containing gas and the inlet buffer ~~220~~208 and the outlet buffer ~~226~~210 for the fuel gas, and the inlet buffers 220, 222 and the outlet buffers 224, 226 for the coolant are elongated respectively in the direction indicated by the arrow C. Thus, it is possible to supply the oxygen-containing gas, the fuel gas, and the coolant more uniformly and smoothly along the electrode surfaces.